

would find surgeons who could tell him the actual story of how Abbott studied the physiology of the gastro-intestinal tract for years with the aid of the fluroscope, and carried out a great variety of ingenious experiments which finally led to the method of intubation which should bear his name. Abbott paid the highest price for his discovery, for he died of leukemia, probably as a result of excessive exposure to radiation.

Dr. Mettler's book is well printed and has an excellent index of personal names and subjects.

C. D. HAAGENSEN, M. D.

EVANS, LUTHER H. *The Library of Congress as the National Library of Science*. Scientific Monthly. 66:405-412, May, 1948.

In this article Dr. Evans justifies the claim of the Library of Congress as the national library of natural science. The library's responsibility to the Congress, the Executive and Judicial agencies of the Government, and to the citizens of the nation to maintain collections and a staff adequate for reference and research has resulted in the accumulation of resources second to none in the country in the natural sciences. In the fields of agriculture and medicine at present comprehensively covered by the Library of the Department of Agriculture and the Army Medical Library, the Library of Congress, as long as these collections are adequately maintained and serviced, will not purchase extensively in these subjects but will limit itself to necessary works to round out its reference collections. This outstanding example of regional co-operation in resources should be followed by New York, Chicago, and other large research regions.

The history of the collections in the natural sciences from 1814, when Thomas Jefferson wrote of his purchases in science, to the present time is briefly outlined and some of the notable mass accessions are noted, including the Smithsonian deposit in 1865 of 40,000 volumes, the Bolton collection on the history and bibliography of chemistry, and the Toner collection rich in early American works in science and medicine. The aeronautic collection formed by the merging of the collection of the National Aeronautic Association and the Langley Aeronautical Library of the Smithsonian Institution and purchases from the Guggenheim Fund of the famous libraries of Gaston Tissandier, Herman Hoerness, and Victor Silberer have built up a notable collection in this important field.

The most recent notable deposits have been the material from the Office of Technical Services of the Commerce Department, comprising 50,000 German scientific and industrial reports; and the 30,000 reports on research from the Office of Scientific Research and Development.

The Library is aware of its responsibility in servicing its material, and

last year recommended to Congress a comprehensive program for a division of science and technology to carry on the work now sponsored by the Office of Naval Research.

Likewise the Library has co-operated to its fullest extent with other government agencies in making material available to the people of the United States. It has distributed the scientific reports of the O S R D and, in co-operation with the Department of Commerce, the Library's photoduplication service has distributed at low cost tens of thousands of copies of German scientific and industrial documents in microfilm or photostat.

In the technical processing fields of cataloging and classification the Library of Congress has developed outstanding systems adopted by many important libraries. The system of classification from the beginning was developed with a broad and forward viewpoint to permit of almost indefinite expansion to keep up with the advancement of knowledge. It is recognized that there is a great need for extensive expansion and revision of Schedule R, Medicine. It had been hoped that the new schedule "W" of the Army Medical Library could be substituted for the L. C. "R" but this idea has been finally abandoned because of the inclusion of material from schedule "Q" (Science) of the L. C. system into "W" of the Army Medical Library system with the consequent dislocation of subjects and the extreme expansion of the "W" schedule of the Army. The Library of Congress plans to undertake in the near future a complete revision of its medical schedule "R".

The Library has been greatly interested in the subject of indexing and abstracting and, in general, in the bibliographical control of material, and has co-operated with all interested agencies in forwarding this work.

The servicing of the Library's outstanding collections in all fields of knowledge is influenced by its budgetary limitations, depending from year to year on Congress for appropriations ample to carry out its plans.

F. E. TURNER

PERRY, J. W. *The Utilization of Scientific Knowledge*. Scientific Monthly. 66:413-416, May, 1948

The author discusses the two current types of abstracting services in the field of chemistry, represented by *Chemical Abstracts*, *British Abstracts* and the *Chemisches Zentralblatt* in one class, and Beilstein's and Gmelin's *Handbuch* in the other class; and advocates the use of the punch-card system for the purpose of facilitating the ready use of the mass of material furnished by these publications.

F. E. TURNER